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Council on Aging Minutes 01/19/06

The following minutes of the January 19, 2006 Regular Meeting were approved at a Regular Meeting of the COA on February 16, 2006.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

27 Maple Street
Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair
Paul West, Vice Chair
Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging
January 19, 2006

MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Robert Carey, William Carey, Robert Tosi, Jr., Paul West, Ann MacGowan, Harry McCabe and Shirley Chapski.

Members Absent: Mildred Hurd and Ruth Palombo.

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Bob Tosi, Jr. presided and Shirley Chapski, Secretary, kept the minutes. A quorum of 7 was present.

The Council welcomed newest member, William ("Bill") Carey, who mentioned that he started out in the Maple St. building 35 years ago as a member of the School Committee.

Minutes of the December 15, 2005 Regular Meeting: Harry moved to receive the minutes of the December 15, 2005 meeting, Ann seconded, all in favor. There being no corrections, Paul voted to approve the minutes, Shirley seconded, Harry abstained because he was absent from said meeting; six voted in favor.

Citizens' Open Forum: None.

Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director's report is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. John made the following additional statements: Item #4 Medicare Part D Program: Requests for assistance with Medicare Part D continue to be demanding and those of the COA staff providing this assistance have no additional hours available to devote to the task. John asked for additional SHINE volunteers from Minuteman. Cindy Phillips, SHINE Program Manager for Minuteman, is willing to do additional training for volunteers recruited specifically to handle the Medicare Part D enrollment. She will name them, "The B Team." Training for the volunteers (who must have prior computer experience) will take place at the Arlington Senior Center. John suggested that some COA board members might be willing to be trained to assist in this endeavor. Item #5: Sevoyan Personal Needs Fund Report: Out of \$5000 allocated for this program which began in September, \$1007.32 has been expended, leaving a balance of \$3992.68. Item #6 Chicopee COA Jan-Feb, 2006 Newsletter: John distributed copies of an article in the Chicopee COA newsletter entitled, 2006: The Year of the Leading Edge Boomers!, and reflecting the anticipated changes in COA services and programs, the new name of the newsletter is Life Times. In response to Bob Tosi's inquiry about the omission of the FY07 COA Budget from his report, John said it had gone to Patsy Kraemer. Both Harry and Bob requested that copies of the 07 budget be sent them. John will mail copies to the members.

OTHER REPORTS:

- COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services: Harry reported since Lois Cardarelli, Arlington representative to Minuteman, has resigned there is an opening for a member from Arlington. Bob will write an article for Senior Notes stating that we are looking for a member to appoint to the Minuteman board.
- COA Representative/Liaison to the Arl. Seniors Association: In Mildred's absence, Bob Tosi who had attended the recent meeting, reported that plans are being made to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the ASA and a committee has been formed to plan activities. The publication of a journal is being planned as a fund raiser and a gala event is also being considered.
- ASA Representative to COA: No report.
- Transportation Committee: John spoke with Ruth Palombo, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, a few days ago about getting together. She has been unavailable due to her work and travel schedule.
- Sevoyan Bequest Committee: Harry had no report; the committee hasn't met but he is willing to do so if the board wishes. He feels energy assistance would be a very valid use of funds for a year round program—not just for the heating season. He distributed flyers from the Mass Energy Consumer Alliance's Discount Heating Oil Service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Budget Committee: The Budget Committee, established at the last board meeting, has two members and will need a third. John has agreed to do a mini training session on the subject of finances at the next regular board meeting and will provide a summary sheet of all our funds, their balances and how the money is expended. The summary sheet will serve as a reference tool. The Finance Committee will meet before the next board meeting.
- Items/Warrant Articles: Three Warrant Articles: (1) To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for our local assessment of the Minuteman Senior Services..., (2) To see if the Town will vote to do all things necessary to implement a program whereby senior citizens providing community service could receive a payment for such services..., and (3) To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the Council on Aging Exercise Program... have been submitted by Bob Tosi to John Maher, Town Counsel, and also delivered by Bob to the Selectmen's office, for inclusion in the the Warrant for the 2006 Annual Town Meeting for consideration by the Town Meeting Members. In response to Harry's request for a dollar amount to be applied to each item, Bob gave the following figures: (1) Minuteman's fair share assessment for FY07 —\$9625; (2) Community Service Program — \$10,500; and (3) COA Exercise Program — \$8000.

After discussion, Paul moved to remove from the Harry Barber Community Service Program the eligibility restriction, "to participate you cannot be a recipient of any tax abatement or deferral in the current fiscal year." Harry seconded; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Joint ASA/COA Boards Meeting: Bob Tosi reported that members from both boards met on January 12, 2006 at 6 p.m. and enjoyed a light supper followed by the joint business meeting. Five of the nine COA board members attended the meeting. The main topics that were discussed were (a) a Health Fair which, at the earliest, would take place in the Fall of 2006, (b) a Senior Center Open House, (c) a Handy Man Program, (d) consideration of a name change for the Senior Center, (d) refurbishing certain areas of the center. It was agreed that a letter outlining needed repairs and refurbishment be sent to Kevin O'Brien. Bob Tosi and Elisa Lopez, President of the ASA, will each work on drafts of such a letter. On February, 7 when the two boards next meet, the drafts will be combined and the resulting version will be submitted to the COA members at the next meeting.

In response to telephone calls to some members, a discussion took place concerning the cat "Shadow" who is a frequent visitor to the senior center and who is becoming a nuisance. The cat has bitten two people and the dog officer has removed it from the building but it keeps returning.

- Financial Report: John distributed copies of the December 2005 report.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Shirley moved to adjourn; Paul seconded; all in favor.

Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Next Regular Meeting, February 16, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 19, 2006

THE MISSION OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING IS
TO PROVIDE ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES
TO HELP ARLINGTON ELDERS LIVE DIGNIFIED AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

1. Finalized the agency's annual report, and also the FY07 Budget Statement, as requested by the Town Manager.
2. January's "Golden Opportunities" is our first "Golden Opportunities Classics" special show, a rerun of the very first G. O., which was aired in March 1991. If you haven't already seen this show, I encourage you to do so!
3. Applied for a grant to fund the printing of 10,000 full-color 'outreach' brochures, outlining the services and programs of the senior center (all four organizations). Plans now being developed call for brochures to be hand-delivered to every senior household in town...a projected two-year effort. I'll keep you informed as things progress.
4. The calls for help with the confusing and convoluted Medicare D Program continue unabated. This is not an issue that will peak and then diminish, it's now an additional and time-consuming part of what we'll be doing from now on. Our Information & Referral position handles these requests for help and the position's 19 hours each week is certainly not enough with this additional burden.

Update: asking for more SHINE vats. Limiting factor is that of CO2 computers available.

5. "Medicare D" volunteers

TRAINING FOR MEDICARE D

Cindy Phillips can and will train volunteers specifically recruited to handle the Medicare D enrollment. (These individuals would not receive the full SHINE training which is a fixed 10 day program.) Specialists trained only in Medicare D are referred to as the "B team". The training includes the Medicare D background necessary to help clients, as well as how and when to refer to other people, and/or not enroll. Volunteers should be comfortable with using the computer. The training will take place here at the Senior Center.

6. Personal needs report

